

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 26, 2001      LB 657

should do. And we're going to take some money away from the only program that we have that really pays attention to that, aside from whatever we can dribble in, at the will of a Governor, from General Funds or whatever an agency can come to us and plead a hard enough case to get their money and actually fix something up. You know, we can use all those other mechanisms, but we had a good mechanism in place before, again, as Senator Chambers noted, people started to dip their greedy hands into it. It was a nice pot of money. And buildings, buildings don't vote. Did you ever notice that? Buildings don't vote. So who's going to speak for those buildings? Who's going to speak? But maybe what we should really be thinking about is who's going to speak for the people that use those buildings or want to use those buildings, or maybe the people who have to work in them? What about those folks, aren't they our responsibility? But, sadly, this is probably one of those issues where we won't hear from those people. They don't even know that we're talking about affecting their interests in a negative way. Nobody wrote them a letter and said we aren't going to repair your building if we spend the money on a riverfront and open ditch in Lincoln. Nobody wrote to them and said that's what your interests are, so nobody's going to write back and nobody is going to call you. And you're probably going to think if you vote for these proposals and we spend state money for a couple of municipal projects, that nobody will ever call you and congratulate you for protecting their interests.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: But we do have responsibilities as state senators, we do have responsibilities to maintain state facilities, we do have responsibilities to maintain buildings where people can work and where people can go to receive services and actually gain access to the building, if you're worried about ADA issues. And we could probably spend some money and save the state money if we spent about \$30 million on energy conservation. But, no, some of you will suggest those aren't our priorities. Our priorities are a couple of projects that other people could afford to do and don't really need our money to do them.